



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Raising Albino Guppies

By Ed Richmond

Contrary to many printed articles about the difficulties in breeding albinos (which by definition is any guppy with a red eye, the caudal and dorsal can be of any color). My experiences in raising them off and on for over 30 years has not been that difficult a task.

I acquired my present line which have taken several best of show awards, a little over three years ago at a South Jersey Guppy Group meeting. Each year the members will pick two color lines of guppies, which the club members agree upon. The fish are then purchased from one of the current top breeders of that color. In return a member of the club will raise that fish and return trios of the first and or second drop of fry for SJGG club members. These trios will be sold to the club members for who wanted that color line for \$5. Yes \$5. This is an excellent way to get good fish for the club members for a small cost. Profits from the sale goes back into the clubs treasury.

As luck would have it the trio of albinos were given to me to raise. About 4 months later when I brought in the trios from the first drop they were not very impressive. Most males had a caudal at an angle and showed orange/yellowish color in the caudal. Approximately ten trios were sold to the club members but no one kept this line going as inbreeding did not give good results.

However knowing the reputation of the original breeder, I felt that the true blood line was still there. At this time I had a good line of gold reds going, so my first step was to cross albino male to my gold red females. The resultant fry being all grey bodied reds with a muddy red tail. However crossing some of these grey females back to albino males resulted in fry with a percentage of albinos babies. I then proceeded to breed these albinos back to my pure albino line and the resulting young were an amazing improvement. Although only 20 percent of the males did I consider worth keeping, they were of excellent shape and quality.

Inbreed the albinos for 2 or 3 generations before going back to the above cross. many times albino females never become pregnant, therefore I cull my fish at 12 weeks to the best 8 males and pick out 4 females who are obviously hit. These fish go into a 10 gallon tank and I do not take young until the fish are about six months old. By this time I am sure the young have been fathered by the 1 of the 8 males who were picked for overall similarity. I do not have much luck in setting up trios of albinos. My females are put into a 5 gallon tank to drop there young with nothing more than a 6 X 6 inch piece of plastic grid (purchased from a crafts store) held in the shape of a "U" with a rubber band.

I keep my females well fed with plenty of brine shrimp in the tank. I have not found them to be any more cannibalistic than other lines. Many time I see young swim in front of the female with no attempt on her part to eat the young, but this can vary with different fish. One thing I have noticed is that albino fry sometimes stay on the bottom a little longer and catfish will eat them. However once they swim to the surface, they should be alright. I find the albino to be long lived and I have not had much trouble with ragged caudals, however after 6 months I only keep five show males and one female in a 10 gallon tank @ 70 degrees and feed only small amounts of dry food 2 times a day, no brine shrimp.

So why not try giving albinos a chance and if tank space permits you can go and experiment with different tail colors, remembering to just keep that red eye.

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Filtration



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